



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

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BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO 105 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT

On Friday, March 21, 2008, Chief U.S. District Judge Ginny Granade imposed a 105-month term of imprisonment on Richard P. Elder, who was charged last December with robbing three Mobile banks between December 2006 and October 2007.

On April 4, 2007, Elder used a fake bomb to rob the Regions Bank located at 4100 Government Boulevard in Mobile of \$8,070.00, and he subsequently pleaded guilty to one count of armed bank robbery. The advisory sentencing guidelines called for a sentencing range of 84-105 months imprisonment. Addressing the court at sentencing, Elder said that he had only "brought joy to people in my career." The United States challenged that claim, noting that Elder terrorized his victims in three separate bank robberies in Mobile over ten months.

Rejecting the request for a minimum sentence of 84 months, Chief Judge Granade cited the seriousness of Elder's offense and the need for deterrence to justify a maximum guidelines sentence of 105 months imprisonment. Judge Granade also ordered that Elder make full restitution to Regions Bank and the two other bank identified in the indictment.

United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes praised the sentence. "Elder's maximum guidelines sentence sends a clear message that bank robbers will face severe penalties in federal court. We will continue to work with the Mobile Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to aggressively prosecute these crimes of violence."

This is Elder's second federal conviction for armed bank robbery. He was sentenced to 77 months imprisonment in 1993 for a bank robbery in Missouri.

This case was investigated by the Mobile Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Andrew Sigler.

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